US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District®

News Release

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River Conditions Prompt St. Louis Engineer District to Activate Emergency Operations Center

St. Louis, Missouri, 13 May 2002 -- In anticipation of the heavy rainfall experienced over the weekend, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10th.

Over the weekend heavy rainfall, ranging anywhere from 1 to 7 inches depending on the location, fell over much of bi-state area, prompting the EOC to dispatch Corps of Engineers representatives to monitor the situation. These representatives currently are contacting local levee commissions, and preparing to patrol Federal and non-Federal levee systems, and lending technical support. The EOC has fielded numerous requests for sandbags and technical advice.

As of 6:00 am today, only one levee within the St. Louis District has been overtopped: the non-Federal levee at Vandalia, IL, on the Kaskaskia River, which overtopped last Tuesday. Based on current crest forecasts from the National Weather Service, the Corps does not anticipate any additional levees being overtopped, although the crest projections are approaching the design limitations on a handful of non-Federal levees. Situations may change with additional rainfall, therefore, the Corps of Engineers will continue to monitor river levels closely.

The 6:00 am National Weather Service river stage and crest forecasts for the major river systems in the region are as follows:

Upper Mississippi River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
Clarksville, MO	25 feet	29.1 feet	31.3 feet	5/14
Winfield, MO	26 feet	29.1 feet	31.9 feet	5/15
Grafton, IL	18 feet	24.6 feet	27.4 feet	5/15
Alton, IL	21 feet	28.5 feet	32.0 feet	5/15

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*Note: The following navigation structures may face closure when the river reaches the range of stages for the corresponding gages listed below:

Lock & Dam 24 (Clarksville)	32.5 feet
Lock & Dam 25 (Winfield)	33.5 feet
Melvin Price (Alton)	34.5 feet

Middle Mississippi River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
St. Louis, MO	30 feet	34.4 feet	38.0 feet	5/15
Chester, IL	27 feet	37.0 feet	40.8 feet	5/17
Cape Girardeau, MO	32 feet	41.9 feet	46.0 feet	5/19

* Note: Locks 27 may face closure when the St. Louis gage reaches 38.5 feet

Illinois River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
Hardin, IL	25 feet	32.0 feet	36.5 feet	5/16

Missouri River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
Hermann, MO	21 feet	28.1 feet	28.1 feet	5/15
St. Charles, MO	25 feet	29.7 feet	31.2 feet	5/14

Meramec River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
Eureka, MO	18 feet	15.5 feet	18.3 feet	5/16
Valley Park, MO	16 feet	19.6 feet	crested	crested
Arnold, MO	24 feet	33.4 feet	38.5 feet	5/16

Kaskaskia River

River Gage	Flood Stage	Current Stage	Crest Forecast	Crest Date
Vandalia	18 feet	23.8 feet	27.6 feet	5/14